



## **Reviewing the purpose and use of the Resna Position papers**

### **What position papers are ready and published?**

- Seat elevators
- Wheelchair standers

*There are others in the works, but they are not yet good enough to circulate.*

### **Where to find them?**

- <http://www.permobilusa.com/funding.php> (on the right hand side, under “research articles”)

### **What is Permobil’s involvement?**

- Permobil took the lead on writing these papers as well as push the process through the system. As such, we have a head start on awareness of these papers and were the first to publish them on our website.
- These position papers are not specific to Permobil. They can and will be used to get approval for all seat elevators and wheelchair standers.
- A select group of unbiased clinicians aided to write, reviewed and finalized the position papers, and 50 clinicians commented on a public review session during the Resna conference
- The Resna Board of Directors reviewed and approved the papers.

### **What is a position paper?**

- A RESNA position paper is an official statement by the organization that, based on the consensus of experts, summarizes current research and best-practice trends in relevant areas.
- These position papers are the first in the wheeled mobility and seating industry issued by an international professional organization declaring the medical and functional necessity of specific assistive technology devices

*In other words, when you do not have better evidence or research, these “white papers” from Resna are very strong arguments to the medical necessity of seat elevators and standers for appropriate cases.*

### **Why do we need position papers?**

- It is the best summary of related scientific evidence currently available
- It adds “clinical evidence” in writing – which means when there is no research to back up a certain benefit yet clinical expertise suggests its appropriateness, now this is available as a professional statement from Resna (safe and effective)
- It comprehensively reviews all benefits and disadvantages of these technologies based on a consensus of experts.
- Fills a void resulting from the lack of scientific evidence



### **Use of a position paper**

- As support material to help obtain funding  
*Some practitioners ALWAYS attach a copy of this paper when they request a seat elevator. You can also refer to it in footnotes of your LMN, or submit upon appeal.*
- As evidence in organized lobbying efforts for policy changes
- As a teaching tool in colleges and universities
- As a teaching tool in the clinical setting, whether to help educate other team members or the client
- As a guide to practitioners in the development and provision of interventions

### **Physician's note example**

*Dr. Brad Diciano at UPMC writes this footnote when requesting a seat elevator:*  
"The client meets criteria for a seat elevator by the 2005 RESNA Position; a seat elevator is medically necessary because it will improve ADLs that might not otherwise be able to be performed without this function, and it will improve transfers."

### **Case examples**

- Funding approval:
  - Mark Schmeler: got 2 seat elevators paid for by Medicare, using these position papers.
  - Michelle Lange: Hasn't had a seat elevator denied from any funding source since using the position papers. She attaches a copy with every request.
- Policy change
  - NCD request for seat elevators submitted to CMS based on the Position Paper; we are requesting coverage for them.

### **Who should know about these?**

- Your therapists, referral sources
- Physicians involved with prescriptions
- Your suppliers
- Your Advocacy groups
- Client organizations, etc.